



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
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January 14, 2004

TO: Washington State Board of Health

FROM: Don Sloma, Executive Director

RE: **UPDATE OF "WELCOME TO PUBLIC HEALTH IN WASHINGTON: A GUIDEBOOK FOR LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS"**

Background and Summary

In 1996, the Board helped publish and now serves as the primary distributor of a guidebook on public health that has been used widely as an orientation for new local board of health members and others. In recent years, requests have been increasing for an updated version. The Board's work plan for the 2003-05 biennium includes a commitment to work with a committee of the Washington Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) on updating the 1996 document.

The new draft is attached. It is the product of several months of redrafting and review by the WSALPHO convened work group, chaired by Maggie Moran, Administrator for the King County Board of Health. The committee included participation from WSALPHO (Vicki Kirkpatrick), local public health administrators (Maryanne Welch, Grays Harbor County), the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine, (Jack Thompson), the state Department of Health (Marie Flake) and Board staff (Don Sloma). DOH communications staff Jill Hanks did much of the drafting. However, several sections of the guidebook were based upon language in other documents, including the Board's annual report and PHIP documents.

The draft before you was distributed on December 19, 2003 to the WSALPHO Board for their review and comment. The distribution memo (attached) stated the draft would be assumed approved by that body on December 29 unless objections or comments were received to the contrary by that date. Apart from a comment that the format of the publication should have the new public health logo (developed as part of the Public Health Improvement Partnership) more prominent and embedded in the document anywhere possible, no comments were received. That logo is below:

PUBLIC HEALTH

ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

The draft is now before the Board for your approval and for your authorization of distribution.

Recommended Board Action:

The Board approves the attached draft of “Welcome to Public Health in Washington State: A Guidebook for Local Board of Health Members”, directs that the format more frequently include the PHIP Communications Committee suggested logo and authorizes printing of some 500 copies for distribution to local health jurisdictions and to local board of health members as well as posting on the Board’s website.